

Submitter: Greg Green

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On  
Natural Resources

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5039

Dear Members of the Ways and Means Subcommittee,  
My name is Greg Green. I am Ducks Unlimited's Director of Conservation Programs for Oregon. Ducks Unlimited is North America's lead organization for wetlands and waterfowl conservation, and has over 6,000 members in Oregon. Since our first project partnerships in the mid-1990s, DU have conserved more than 131,000 acres of habitat in Oregon. DU's team of biologists, engineers, regulatory compliance, and land protection staff work closely with farmers, landowners, and public entities to restore and protect wetlands, wildlife friendly agriculture, and natural resources throughout Oregon.

I want to express DU's endorsement for supporting the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program at the \$2M level proposed in POP 090. We also respectfully request this committee to consider fully funding OAHP at the \$17.3 million level contained in House Bill 3131.

HB3131 has an amazing 36 sponsors, which shows that this program has broad-based support in the community. It also carried unanimous support from the House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Water, and Natural Resources. There is also overwhelming interest in this program by farming landowners throughout the state. OAHP is an important source of state funding for farm-related conservation projects that can be leveraged several times for a broader impact. We hope that this committee will consider HB3131's funding amount for this program.

Some of the most important wildlife and migratory bird habitat in Oregon is located on farmland. Not only does OAHP provide funding for on-the-ground farm conservation activities, but it also helps farmers with financial and technical support to promote the health and responsible use of their lands and waters. It stewards the next generation of farmers, while also protecting farmlands for those future generations.

Please increase funding of OAHP to grow this program, which also supports Oregon's people, communities and environments.